



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 2011

To all Michigan Public Libraries, Head Start Programs, Great Start Readiness Programs, and Public Schools serving grades K-2:

Welcome to the Michigan Reads! One-State, One-Children's Book program presented by the Library of Michigan with generous sponsorship from Target through the Library of Michigan Foundation and support from Sleeping Bear Press. The featured book for 2011 is *Memoirs of a Goldfish*, written by Michigan resident Devin Scillian and illustrated by Tim Bowers of Ohio. **We encourage the reading of *Memoirs of a Goldfish* to children statewide during the months of September and October.**

Memoirs of a Goldfish is a fanciful and delightful tale of a lonely goldfish and the varied assortment of friends who eventually populate and overcrowd his bowl. While feeling somewhat put out at first, he eventually develops an appreciation of the amusing and odd quirks of his companions. Of course, there is a happy ending. The story, the language, the rhythm of the words, and the wonderful illustrations all work together to make *Memoirs of a Goldfish* a read-aloud that both children and older readers will want to experience again and again.

The 2011 Michigan Reads! program will be kicked off on International Literacy Day on Thursday, September 8, 2011. Local celebrities will be reading *Memoirs* aloud that day to children at individual public libraries all over the state. We anticipate that Michigan Reads! programming will continue in libraries and classrooms throughout September and October. During those months, author Devin Scillian and illustrator Tim Bowers will tour the state, presenting special Michigan Reads! programs at selected Michigan libraries and schools. The schedule is listed at the end of this letter.

The Library of Michigan is pleased to provide this kit of 2011 Michigan Reads! materials to encourage and enable you to share the book with children, whether your location is on the tour list or not. If you are in a school, please coordinate the sharing of these resources among classrooms and the library. Use the enclosed materials to promote early childhood literacy and the enjoyment of reading to children and with children.

The contents of this kit are:

- A hardcover copy of the book, *Memoirs of a Goldfish* (by Devin Scillian; illustrated by Tim Bowers; published by Sleeping Bear Press)
- A Programming and Resource Guide produced specifically for Michigan Reads! 2011;
- Bookmarks providing early literacy tips for parents and caregivers;
- Stickers to give to children as they participate; and
- A poster for your library or classroom on which children can write their name after they listen to or read the story

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

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Program materials and other resources are also available on the Michigan Reads! website at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads. This kit includes a reminder for our program survey. Your feedback on the number of programs you have held and how many children have participated is very important to us. We need it to report back to our major funding sources for the program to encourage them to continue to support Michigan Reads! in coming years. **We strongly encourage and request your participation in this survey which includes an opportunity for you to verify your contact information and mailing address so we can include your school or public library in the mailing of Michigan Reads! materials next year.**

Michigan Reads! began in 2004 as a new approach to the community-wide, “one book” programs gaining popularity throughout the country. While most of these efforts focus on adults or teens, Michigan Reads! is unique in that it seeks to boost early-childhood literacy by featuring a book geared specifically towards young children. The program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to children, encourages family bonding through reading, and increases awareness and usage of Michigan’s public and school libraries as excellent resources for learning.

Yours truly,



Nancy R. Robertson
State Librarian

Michigan Reads! Author and Illustrator tours

Tuesday, September 13	Monroe County Library, Newport Branch	Devin Scillian
Tuesday, September 20	Monroe County Library, Ida Branch	Devin Scillian
Saturday, September 24	Bayliss Public Library	Devin Scillian
Tuesday, September 27	Detroit Public Library, Skillman Branch	Devin Scillian
Tuesday, October 4	Detroit Public Library, Main Branch	Devin Scillian
Tuesday, October 11	Brighton District Library	Devin Scillian
Tuesday October 18	Flint Public Library	Devin Scillian
Monday, October 10	Houghton Lake Public Library	Tim Bowers
Tuesday, October 11	Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library	Tim Bowers
Wednesday, October 12	Fremont Area District Library	Tim Bowers
Thursday, October 13	Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library	Tim Bowers
Friday, October 14	Kalamazoo Public Library	Tim Bowers

*For specific times and locations, please contact libraries directly.